

*Library*

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954



EAST WILTS COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS  
MARLBOROUGH (BOROUGH)  
AMESBURY, PEWSEY, MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY (RURAL DISTRICTS)

*With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health*

R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Council Offices  
1 The Green, Marlborough

Marlborough 487

# RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

---

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

# 1954

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF  
AMESBURY

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1954.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 26,960. The excess of births over deaths during 1954 was 301 and the rate of natural increase is thus 11.2 per 1000 population. There were 408 (219 male and 189 female) live births which give a rate per 1000 population of 19.98 corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.8 and that for England and Wales 15.2 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 107 deaths (70 male and 37 female) after correction for comparability is 6.9 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.3 and 10.4 per 1000 population.

The deaths at 65 years and over represent 49.5 per cent of the total deaths (107) of which 34 occurred at 75 years and over.

The death rate in infants under one year of age (infant mortality rate) is 19.6 per 1000 live births: there were actually 8 (6 male and 2 female) such deaths in 408 live births during 1954. The corresponding figures for this rate in the administrative county were 24.9 per 1000 live births and 25.5 per 1000 live births for England and Wales.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths numbered 5 (3 male and 2 female) and this gives a rate of 12.3 per 1000 live births.

Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population, for cancer 0.7, coronary disease 0.6, and cerebral haemorrhage 0.5.

The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases expressed as a proportion of the total deaths during the year were diseases of the heart and circulation other than coronary disease 17.8 per cent ; cancer 16.8 per cent ; coronary disease 14 per cent ; cerebral vascular lesions 12.1 per cent ; and pneumonia and bronchitis 8.2 per cent.

The *incidence rates* per 1000 population for the following *notifiable diseases* in the District during 1954 were, measles 3.2, scarlet fever 0.3, whooping cough 0.9.

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 150 for the District during 1954, as against 464 in the previous year, which latter figure was largely due to measles.

The month of greatest incidence was October with 49 notifications of which 47 were measles. Of the 87 cases of measles, 44 occurred between the ages of 5 and 10 years. This age group also produced the highest incidence (60) of infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis notifications which are not included above numbered 11 during 1954 ; all were respiratory.

Three hundred and ninety-five children under 15 years of age completed primary inoculation against diphtheria ; 137 were under 1 year of age, 213 between 1-5 years and 45 between 5-15 years of age. Five hundred and nine re-inoculations were also done in the Rural District during the year.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

*I have the honour to be,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

RODERICK MACKAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1955.



## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	I. L. FISHER, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Additional Sanitary Inspector	R. WILKINSON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Rodent Operator	R. H. COOMBS

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined District, viz.: Marlborough M.B., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office; he holds in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector together with his assistant carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Sanitary Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and Housing Committee of the District Council.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	63455
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	17
Population mid-1954 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....	Total	26960
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	4550
Number of new houses erected in 1954 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	33
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	140
Rateable value	....	....	....	....	....	£161338
Sum represented by a Penny rate (estimated)	....	....	....	....	....	£675

## VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	219	189	408
Legitimate	213	185	398
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Still Births	6	2	8
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Live Birth Rate			19.9
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.2
Number of deaths from all causes	70	37	107
Death Rate			6.9
Death Rate for England Wales			11.3
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	6	2	8
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births			19.6
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			25.5

### NOTE :

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1954 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

### BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,

	1954		
	Amesbury R.D.	Administrative County	England and Wales
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	19.9	15.8	15.2
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	6.9	10.4	11.3
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 live births)	19.6	24.9	25.5

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1945-1954

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population .....	13320	13430	13780	14050	24750	21860	25470	24430	24080	26960
Live Births .....	275	323	418	364	387	389	408	380	420	408
	20.6	24.1	30.3	25.9	15.6	17.8	16.0	15.6	17.4	15.1
Still Births .....	6	10	6	8	6	11	8	8	8	8
	21.4	30.0	14.2	21.5	15.3	27.5	19.2	20.6	18.7	19.2
Total Deaths .....	120	122	134	126	136	130	141	147	110	107
	9.0	9.1	9.7	9.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.0	4.6	4.0
Infant Deaths .....	10	12	20	14	9	10	8	8	16	8
	36.3	37.2	47.8	38.5	23.3	25.7	19.6	21.1	23.8	19.6
Tuberculosis Deaths .....	4	3	7	6	4	7	1	3	1	0
	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cancer Deaths .....	18	17	13	20	18	17	28	25	18	18
	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7
Pneumonia Deaths .....	5	4	4	2	3	5	7	10	8	4
	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1

\* Includes armed forces from and including 1949.

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1954 was 150 as compared with 464 in 1953, and 137 in 1952. There were 87 notifications for measles, which occurs in two yearly steps rising one year and falling the next. The months with the highest numbers were September and October, with March and November next in order of incidence. Age group 5-10 years had the highest numbers not only of measles but of the infective diseases notified. There was one death from gastro-enteritis in a female child aged two years. There were no other deaths from infective disease in the Rural District during 1954.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

Eleven notifications were received in respect of respiratory tuberculosis during 1954. There were no deaths from this cause in 1954 in the Rural District.



NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1954

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping cough	4	1	7	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	3	25
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Pneumonia	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Scarlet fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	2	9
Measles	-	1	5	-	-	5	3	22	47	-	4	-	87
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	5	-	11
Totals	7	4	15	5	-	4	10	4	25	49	15	12	150

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1954

Disease	Total	Age (years)													
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65		
Whooping cough	25	2	3	3	3	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Dysentery	6	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-		
Pneumonia	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4		
Scarlet fever	9	-	-	1	-	1	6	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Measles	87	4	11	9	9	8	44	1	-	1	-	-	-		
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Poliomyelitis	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Totals	139	6	16	13	12	16	60	3	-	5	2	1	5		

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

One hundred and thirty seven infants under one year old were inoculated against diphtheria in 1954 in the Rural District. The number of live births for the same year was 408.

The numbers immunized in the age groups 1-4 and 5-15 years respectively were 213 and 45; the total number primarily immunized in 1954 in the Rural District was 395.

The following numbers were immunized during the last ten years.

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										<i>Total</i>
	1945	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	
Under 5	183	113	108	123	210	172	360	268	190	350	2077
5-15	45	13	117	30	124	42	48	55	40	45	559
Totals	228	126	225	153	334	214	408	323	230	395	2636

The total number of primary vaccinations performed during the year in the Rural District was 279, of which 182 were under one year old or about 45 per cent of the annual births (408) in the Rural District during 1954.

## HOUSING

The provision of 140 new houses by the Council, together with 33 built privately, although representing a substantial increase on the total houses built yearly since 1950, has not of course greatly influenced the demand for housing which is still urgent, and is likely to become more so as the housing survey recommendations are implemented and the slum clearance programme is put in hand.

The number of houses built during the last five years are :—

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
By Local Authority .....	49	117	76	72	140
Privately .....	11	19	30	46	33
Total.....	60	136	106	118	173

Further details under this heading are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, in which it will also be noted that housing takes up a considerable proportion of departmental time.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

In view of the continued need for an adequate water supply in most of the populous villages of the Bourne valley it is to be hoped that Ministry approval for the projected regional water supply scheme will not be long delayed. Samples of water from these casual sources have shown that individual supplies are bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

The public water supplies at Amesbury, Durrington and Shrewton, and water from other sources at Cholderton, Tilshead and Figheldean are chlorinated.

These supplies have proved to be satisfactory in quality and quantity although it has been necessary to supplement the Amesbury supply by drawing on that at Durrington.

## **FOOD SUPERVISION**

No considerable incidence of illness attributable to food contamination was noted during the year, and to this extent at any rate the standard of food hygiene may be said to have been generally satisfactory. There can, however, be no complacency in the matter in view of the great risk of bowel infection spreading as the direct result of unsatisfactory food handling. It is disappointing to record that the Clean Food Campaign inaugurated by the Council towards the end of the year although well advertised and adequately arranged failed to attract public interest. It is probable that lack of appreciation of the need for the careful handling of food to avoid contamination is mainly responsible for this lack of public interest, and the indifference and apathetic attitude, with too few exceptions, of customer and purveyor alike.

It is to be regretted too that the routine bacteriological examination of milk by the Public Health Laboratory service, introduced early in the year, which proved its value in maintaining a check on the cleanliness of equipment, and in other obvious directions, has been discontinued by the laboratory authorities. Specific bacteriological investigation is carried out as required, but the routine check for organisms in milk has not found favour. Monthly milk samples are sent for the statutory tests, and quarterly for biological investigation for bovine tuberculosis.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECT. 47)**

In 1954 one elderly person (female) was removed to Welfare accommodation at Salisbury, without a judicial order.



# CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1954

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	—	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	....	3	—	3
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	....	....	....	3	1	4
12	„ „ breast	....	....	....	—	3	3
13	„ „ uterus	....	....	....	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	....	7	—	7
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	—	1	1
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	6	7	13
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....	....	4	11	15
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	1	—	1
20	Other heart disease	....	....	....	8	2	10
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	5	3	8
22	Influenza	....	....	....	1	—	1
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	4	—	4
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	4	1	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	3	—	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	....	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	....	....	....	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	7	3	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	5	—	5
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	3	1	4
35	Suicide	....	....	....	5	—	5
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total all causes					70	37	107



RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SENIOR  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report of work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1954.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in conformity with requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 dated 15th December, 1954.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and co-operation given during the year.

I should like to place on record my appreciation for the help given by the Medical Officer of Health, in the discharge of our joint responsibilities, and I am also grateful to your Engineer and Surveyor for his assistance in the compilation of the information on water supplies, drainage and sewerage throughout the District, and in addition the helpfulness of all colleagues in other Departments at all times.

*I am Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

I. L. FISHER.

# SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

## NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS OR INSPECTIONS DURING 1954

### GENERAL SANITATION

Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Water Supply	....	....	65	
Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Drainage of Property	....	....	1079	
Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Keeping of Animals	....	....	12	
Number of Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	....	....	3	
Number of Inspections of Movable Dwellings	....	....	114	
Number of Inspections under Factories Act	....	....	30	
Number of Inspections of Outworkers Premises	....	....	5	
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses	....	....	20	
Number of Inspections of Licensed Premises	....	....	13	
Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Refuse Collection and Disposal			16	
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	....	....	34	
Number of Smoke observations	....	....	2	
Number of Schools Inspected	....	....	5	
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	81	
Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Sampling of Water Supplies	....		252	
Number of Inspections <i>re</i> Sampling of Sewage Effluent	....		24	1755
			—	

### HOUSING

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	28			
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	80	108		
	—			
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	117			
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	254	371		
	—			
Number of Houses inspected <i>re</i> Overcrowding	....	....	8	
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	....	154	
Number of Houses inspected <i>re</i> Verminous conditions	5			
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	4	9	650	
	—	—		
Number of Property Owner/Agents and Builders inter- viewed	....	....	173	

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	....	22		
Number of Visits <i>re</i> Disinfestation	....	5		
Number of Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	....	57		
Number of Visits <i>re</i> Suspected Food Poisoning	....	9	93	
		—	—	
			2498	

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Number of Visits to Poultry Packing Station	....	....	235
Number of Visits to Knackers Yard	....	....	4
Number of Visits to Butchers Shops	....	....	25
Number of Visits to Shops and Stalls	....	....	3
Number of Visits to Grocers	....	....	63
Number of Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	44
Number of Visits to Ice Cream Premises	....	....	43
Number of Visits to Food Preparing Premises	....	....	43
Number of Visits in connection with Sampling of Milk (Bacteriological)	....	....	183
Number of Visits in connection with Sampling Milk (Bottle Washing Samples)	....	....	39
Number of Visits <i>re</i> Food and Drugs Samples	....	....	2
Number of Miscellaneous Food Visits	....	....	11 695
			<hr/>
			3193

## ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Very little action has been found necessary during the year and only five cases, all of minor nature, were investigated. All were satisfactorily dealt with by the use of Proprietary Insecticide with residual D.D.T. and subsequent visits to the premises revealed no further signs of infestation.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

Inspections of the Factories within the District have shown that conditions are generally satisfactory. Any defects or contraventions noted have all been of a minor character and have been remedied as a result of informal action.

The following is a list of the Factories in the District.

Bakers and Confectioners	9
Engineering, including Garages	17
Electricity Generating	2
Joinery, Woodworking	9
Testing of Flow Meters	1
Coachbuilding	3
Milk Pasteurising	1
Laundering	1
Corn Milling	1
Manufacture of Explosives	1
Sausage Making	1
Vehicle Painting	1
Tailoring	1
Tobacco and Cigarettes	1
Aircraft Testing	1
Instrument Repairs	1
Cine Film Camera Testing	1
Oil Gas	1



## OUTWORKERS

Five outworkers were notified to the Department by other Authorities during the course of the year, all being engaged in the manufacture of knitted wear. Inspections of the premises were made as notifications were received, and no action was found to be necessary.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Refuse Collection System has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year, collections being made once weekly in the larger Villages and once fortnightly in the smaller Parishes. All refuse collected in the District is disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip at Porton Firs, by means of controlled tipping and conditions at this site remain satisfactory.

The separation of saleable materials such as metal and rags is carried out at the Refuse Tip and these articles, together with salvaged Waste Paper, have been sold to Contractors.

## HOUSING

Steady progress has been made during the year by the Council in the provision of new housing accommodation, a total of 140 houses having been erected in the year under review. The number of applicants on the Council's non-priority Housing list however still remains very high, and is partly due to the number of time expired Service personnel from the Establishments situated within the area who wish to settle in the district. Although a special allocation of houses was received for this type of applicant it has not proved sufficient to meet all the applications received. Work has been commenced on the erection of the houses for the persons still living in hutted camps and it is hoped that these will be completed during the ensuing year.

As forecast last year there has been an increase in the number of individual unfit properties brought to the Council's notice and details are given in the following table. The survey of unfit houses required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was commenced and is still continuing. A preliminary survey revealed that approximately one hundred houses would require to be included in the Council's Slum Clearance programme and to this figure would be added a number of Crown properties in respect of which the War Department had no responsibility for rehousing the tenants.

During the year applications for improvement grants were made in respect of thirty properties. Of these twenty-four were approved, four rejected and two were under consideration at the end of the year.

The following table shows the action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year.

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be	
unfit for human habitation ....	17
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ....	43



Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :—	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	I
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	12
Number of notices served requiring the execution of works	I
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	I
Number of demolition or closing orders made	x 15
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
Number of houses demolished	* 9
x Includes 5 houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority in 1953.	
* Includes 2 houses demolished by Owners in anticipation of demolition orders.	
Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.	
(i) Number of cases discovered during the year	7
(ii) Number of cases abated during the year	5

## RODENT CONTROL

The control measures recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are closely followed by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

All complaints received have been investigated and dealt with promptly, and the work carried out during the year was efficient and successful. Systematic surveys of the Parishes in the District have also continued.

The Refuse Tip and the two major sewage works sites have been treated regularly and kept well under control. The annual test baiting of public sewers showed these to be free from infestation.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Operator during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	<i>Local Author- ity</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cul- tural</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Prop- erties inspected as a result					
(a) notification	(a) —	105	—	9	114
(b) Survey	(b) 4	439	77	27	547
(c) otherwise	(c) —	6	—	2	8
Number of Rein- spections of above premises	12	15	—	1	28
Number of Prop- erties inspected (as above which were found to be infest- ed with rats	Major 2	—	2	3	7
	Minor —	166	7	8	181
Number of Prop- erties inspected which were found to be seriously in- fested by mice	—	6	—	—	6
Number of above properties treated by Local Authority	2	115	—	11	128
Total treatments carried out includ- ing retreatment	14	130	—	12	156
Number of notices served under sec- tion 4 of the Pre- vention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—

Number of “ block control ” schemes carried out : 4.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Public Supplies owned and operated by the Council are in the Parishes of Amesbury, Bulford and Shrewton.

### AMESBURY

The demand on this supply has continued to be heavy and it has been necessary to continue to augment the supply with water from Durrington. The only satisfactory solution to the problem will be the connection of the Amesbury Supply to the reservoir to be constructed at Earls Down as part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated water have been carried out and the results have, without exception, shown no evidence of pollution. A chemical sample was also analysed, the results being as follows :—

Physical Characters.....	Clear colourless water
CHEMICAL.....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.2
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 deg. C. ....	0.003
Chlorides .....	1.7
Nitrogenous nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	24.2
(a) Temporary .....	16.0
(b) Permanent .....	8.2
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrates .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

### BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total Colonies in 48 hours Nil Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms Nil Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli Nil Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

### OPINION :

Neither chemical nor bacteriological examination shows any evidence of pollution.

### DURRINGTON AND BULFORD

The heavier duty pumps were installed at the Pumping Station during the year and have proved adequate to meet the increased demand for water as a result of the bringing into operation of the Sewerage Scheme.



The results of the Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of this supply are given below.

Physical Characters.....	Clear colourless water
<i>CHEMICAL</i> : .....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or " Albuminoid ") ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C .....	0.003
Chlorides .....	2.2
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	25.4
(a) Temporary .....	17.5
(b) Permanent .....	7.9
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrates .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

#### *BACTERIOLOGICAL :*

Total Colonies in 48 hours 2 Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms Nil Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli Nil Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 44 degrees C.

#### *OPINION :*

Chemical examination shows a moderately hard water of excellent character. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Work was commenced towards the end of the year of extending the water main at Hackthorn. A large sized main than originally intended is being installed and it will later form part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme.

#### *SHREWTON*

This supply continues to function satisfactorily and there is reserve for future connections.

Samples of water have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination and have been found to be satisfactory. A sample was also submitted for Chemical examination and the results are as set out below.

Physical Character.....	Clear colourless water
<i>CHEMICAL</i> : .....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline per pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or " albuminoid ") ammonia.....	0.001



Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C. ....	0.003
Chlorides .....	1.4
Nitrogenous nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	23.6
(a) Temporary .....	17.9
(b) Permanent .....	5.7
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrates .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment .....	Nil

#### *BACTERIOLOGICAL :*

Total Colonies in 48 hours 1 Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms Nil Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli Nil Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

#### *OPINION :*

Neither chemical nor bacteriological examination shows any evidence of pollution.

During the year the water mains were extended to The Hollows and to the Council's Housing Site at London Road.

#### *OTHER SUPPLIES*

The undermentioned Parishes obtain a supply from privately owned water schemes :—

Cholderton (Cholderton Water Company)

Wilsford cum Lake (Lake Estate)

Tilshead and Figcheldean (Supply taken in bulk from the War Department Trunk Main).

Samples of water taken from the Lake Estate supply showed evidence of contamination and investigation revealed the source of contamination to be in the storage reservoir. This was thoroughly cleansed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. Samples of water have been taken regularly from the other supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination, and in all instances were found to be free from contamination.

#### *REGIONAL WATER SCHEMES*

The Council has continued to press the Ministry for permission to carry out this Scheme and approval was still awaited at the end of the year. The position regarding water supplies in most Parishes in the Bourne Valley is very acute, few of the samples taken from this area and submitted for bacteriological examination, coming up to standard.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

### *AMESBURY*

During the year work was commenced upon the extension of the Amesbury Sewage Disposal Works, and will, when completed, result in the plant being capable of dealing with the demand made upon it.

The Council considered the provision of a sewer to serve the newly developed area of Countess Road and have instructed their Engineers to prepare a suitable scheme.

### *BULFORD AND DURRINGTON*

The whole of the Sewerage Scheme for the Parishes of Bulford and Durrington became available for use in March, 1954. Since that time steady progress has been made in the connection of properties to the sewers and at the end of the year 449 properties had been connected thereto, 357 being in the Parish of Durrington and 92 in the Parish of Bulford.

The Council also agreed a scheme for the laying of a sewer in Recreation Road, Durrington.

### *SHREWTON*

During the year the Council was advised that the Minister of Housing and Local Government was prepared to give further consideration to the Council's application to provide a Sewerage Scheme for this Parish, but the Minister's final approval was still awaited at the end of the year.

The sanitary circumstances in parts of this Parish are such that the need for the early provision of a sewerage scheme cannot be overstressed.

## **MOVABLE DWELLINGS**

All movable dwellings were inspected at intervals during the year and in only very few instances was it found necessary to take any action. All matters complained of were satisfactorily dealt with as a result of verbal notice.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

The supply of milk throughout the District has been satisfactory during the year, most of the milk consumed being Pasteurised and supplied from the Milk Factory situated at Amesbury.

Within the District there are :

Registered Milk Distributors .....	4
Registered Dairies .....	1
Dealers Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ....	2
Dealers Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk .....	1

A system for the regular sampling of Distributors of Milk was brought into use during the year and a total of 183 samples of milk were submitted for the Statutory tests, and also for bacteriological and biological examination. The majority of the samples taken proved satisfactory. There is no doubt that this regular sampling by the Local Authority's Officers has resulted in an improvement in the quality of milk of certain producers.

In one case the milk being retailed by a small producer was found to be infected with staphylococcal organisms and the supply was diverted for treatment whilst the source of origin was traced and removed.

Two complaints as to the dirty condition of milk bottles were brought to the Council's notice and after careful consideration a warning letter was sent to the firm concerned.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no slaughter houses within the District for the slaughter of animals for human consumption, all killing being done at the newly erected Abattoir in the City of Salisbury.

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the District and on periodic visits to the premises conditions have been found satisfactory.

Daily visits have been made to the Poultry Packing Station at Amesbury for the purpose of inspecting the poultry killed, prepared and packed at this establishment.

### ICE CREAM PREMISES

Routine inspections of all registered premises were made throughout the year and no action was found to be necessary.

### FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

Inspection of premises where food is prepared have been made during the year and the general standard remains satisfactory. Only minor contraventions of the Food Bye-Laws were noted and these were remedied as a result of informal action.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings were instituted against a firm for selling food which was unfit for human consumption contrary to Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The firm pleaded guilty to the offence and the Magistrates imposed a fine of £10 and costs.



## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

A Clean Food Campaign, inaugurated by the Council, was held in Amesbury on four successive weeks in November, 1954. The campaign took the form of talks, illustrated by visual aids, on the first three afternoons and a film display on the fourth afternoon.

Although primarily intended for food handlers, members of the public were invited to attend. Much publicity was given to the campaign by advertisements in the Public Press, on the screen of the local cinema and by written invitations to food traders, but the response was very disappointing and it became necessary to ask local schools to make up the audience with senior boys and girls.

Requests have since been received from a number of branches of the Women's Institute for talks on Food Hygiene, and general talks assisted by film strips have been given. These have proved very successful, partly due to the fact that an audience can be guaranteed, and will be continued in the future to all interested organised bodies.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1954

Mutton	....	....	....	....	5 lb.
Pork ....	....	....	....	....	12 lb.
Cooked Ham (Canned)	....	....	....	....	48 lb.
Luncheon Meat (Canned)	....	....	....	....	1 lb.
Turkeys	....	....	....	....	1
Chickens	....	....	....	....	2419
Geese	....	....	....	....	18
Poussins	....	....	....	....	35
Ducks	....	....	....	....	1
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	1











*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,  
Marlborough.*